



## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

### **VIRGINIA REFUGEE DAY**

**WHEREAS**, refugees are persons who are outside his or her country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 2,000 refugees and persons seeking asylum because of wars, human rights violations, and fear of persecution or death began making new lives in Virginia in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia has provided safe haven and opportunity to more than 50,000 refugees from over 80 different countries over the past 30 years through the efforts of organizations who contract with the Virginia Office of Newcomer Services; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's refugee program, as a part of the national humanitarian refugee resettlement program, gives hope to newcomers to build a new life; and

**WHEREAS**, refugees resettle in communities across the Commonwealth and make significant contributions to those communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy m. Kaine, do hereby recognize June 20, 2006, as **REFUGEE DAY** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth